and cardamom respectively have helped them to push their produce in the International Market making if difficult for the Indian spices to compete. Price of ginger ruled at higher level during the year 2004-05 but the prices started falling from the last week of 30.12.2005.

(d) Government has no programme at present to procure spices with minimum support prices.

(e) Does not arise.

Trained infiltrators being sent by Pakistan

†887. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is sending trained infiltrators in the hills of Poonch;

(b) the number of attempts made by infiltrators at Poonch border through LOC during last two months;

(c) whether Government have held any talks with Government of Pakistan in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether, according to the Defence Experts, situation in Poonch is taking a turn similar to the Kargil war; and

(e) if so, whether Government are prepared to handle emergent circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (e) Infiltration attempts from across the Line of Control and other borders continue and are being effectively neutralized in Jammu and Kashmir. Infiltration attempts have been successfully intercepted in the Poonch Sector in May and June, 2006. There were two attempts in May and none in June, 2006.

Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan needs to take effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism on a permanent basis. Government has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

support terror in any manner. The situation in Kashmir is not taking a turn similar to the Kargil episode. The deployment of security forces in J&K is reviewed keeping in view the contingency requirement as a result of threat perception from time to time.

Super-sensitive contract to Black-listed firm

888. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent media reports entitled "Black-listed firm got DRDO's 'super-sensitive' contract";

(b) if so, how such a serious lapse went unnoticed in the Ministry;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to institute an investigation as to how this happened; and

(d) whether deterrent action would be taken against the official responsible for such a serious lapse?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The contract was placed by Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL), a public sector undertaking, on Shoghi communication on 28th February 2005. The advisory of Ministry of Defence, indicating banning of dealings with the firm, was issued only on 19th September 2005, *i.e.* after the placement of contract. No payment has been made to the firm. Dealings with the firm have ceased.

Purchase of three Warships from Russia

889.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to purchase three warships from Russia, recently;

(b) if so, the price of each such warship and when they are expected to reach India;

(c) whether each of these ships would be fully equipped on the pattern of earlier warship, INS Prahar, which was purchased at the cost of Rs. 200 crore and sank in an accident with merchant vessel, Rajiv Gandhi; and

(d) if so, how arms and ammunitions purchased from Russia are reliable and dependable like MiG 21/MiG 25 and MiG 29?